



Name	Charles Coventry
DOB	08/03/1983
Nationality	Zimbabwean
Player Status	Unavailable
Playing Role	Coach Only
Batting Style	RH Opening Bat
Bowling Style	N/A
Entry Route	Spouse Visa
Coaching Qualifications	CSA Level 2

Charles Coventry is a former record-breaking international player for Zimbabwe, now pursuing a coaching career. He is currently Head Coach of the prestigious St Stithians College in Johannesburg, South Africa.

As a player, Coventry wrote his name into the history books back in August 2009, after making a headline-grabbing return to international cricket, equalling the record for the highest individual ODI score by blasting an unbeaten 194 against Bangladesh (which was subsequently overtaken in February 2010 by Sachin Tendulkar's 200).

Coventry who returned from a three-year absence from the international stage had not previously scored a hundred for Zimbabwe produced a blistering 156-ball display which included 16 fours and 7 sixes. He played a further 18-months in the national side, before being dropped after the ICC World Cup in February/March 2011.

A few years on, Coventry refused Zimbabwe Cricket's offer to rejoin the national squad ahead of the World T20 in 2014, due to internal politics and absent payments. However, despite having not played domestic cricket in Zimbabwe since March 2013, he was recalled to the national team for white-ball cricket after a four-year absence.

His recall was a surprise for many, yet Coventry stated in the press in May 2015 that he was "batting as well as ever", after overseas stints with Dubai's Wings SRT and Johannesburg's Wanderers Cricket Club. Coventry has now played 54 matches for the national side – his 194* being his obvious highlight amongst 831 runs at 24.44 in 39 ODIs.

Coventry's career has been a quite remarkable one. He became the youngest Zimbabwean first-class player at 15 years 303 days and scored 314 runs at 44.85 in the Under-19 cricket world cup in New Zealand – finishing as the 5th leading run-scorer of the tournament (ahead of players including Graeme Smith, Tatenda Taibu, Hashim Amla, Jesse Ryder, Dwayne Bravo, and Salman Butt).

He's played two seasons UK league cricket (Whickham in 2004 and Portsmouth United Services in 2006. He featured for Duronto Rajshahi in the Bangladesh Premier League in 2013 where he starred opening the batting, including a best innings of 62 from 25 balls against Barisal Burners. He then headed to play in the Netherlands' top-flight competition, the Topklasse for Dosti Amsterdam where he once again demonstrated his ability with several explosive innings.

Since January 2015, before his role with St Stithians, Coventry coached for King Edward VII Preparatory School – the junior school of King Edward High School (which produced players like Jimmy Cook, Neil McKenzie and Graeme Smith). Down the road, at St John's, Stuart Matsikenyeri had a similar position. Matsikenyeri was recalled for the World Cup and Coventry made contact with Zimbabwe shortly after to discuss the possibility of a comeback to the highest level, albeit in a limited capacity.

He duly succeeded, earning his 50th cap in the series' against Pakistan and India in May and July 2015 respectively. However, this proved to be his last outing for his country, before returning to coaching in South Africa.

In 2019, Coventry utilized his British spousal visa to return to the UK to take up a role with Cranleigh Cricket Club in Surrey, where he also coached at the prestigious Cranleigh School. Courtesy of his success, he was set to return to the Club in 2020 before the pandemic struck.

Coventry is now open to a UK return in 2022, ideally for a long-term coaching role alongside opportunities to play for a club.

Overseas Statistics

Team (Season)	Mts	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	Ovs	Runs	Wkts	BB	Avg
Dosti (2013)	17	17	1	450	137	28.13	-	-	-	-	-
United Services (2007)	13	13	1	775	134	64.58	-	-	-	-	-
Whickham (2004)											

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